

# WINTER QUARTER SUNDAY SCHOOL 2014-2015

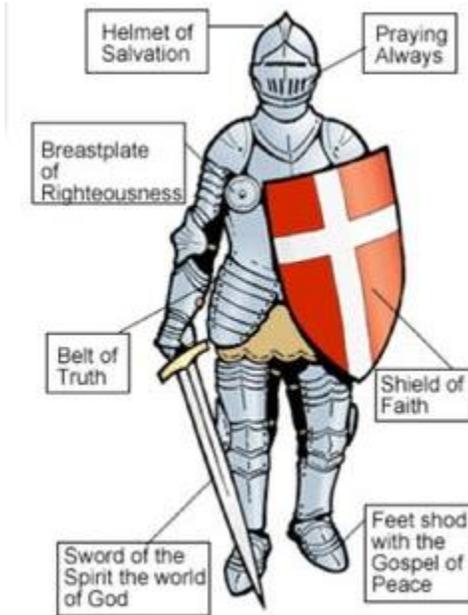
**THEME: COME LET US ADORE CHRIST THE KING IN WORSHIP, PRAYER, AND STEWARDSHIP**

## Unit III – STEWARDSHIP FOR LIFE

# “THE WARFARE OF A GOOD STEWARD OF CHRIST!”

Sunday School Lesson XII – February 22, 2015

Rev. Frank A. Davis, III, Pastor-Teacher



Lesson Text: Ephesians 6:10-20

Required Reading: Ephesians 6:10-20

Motto Texts: Ephesians 6:13, *“Wherefore take unto you the whole armor of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.”*  
Peter 5:8-9, *“Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour: Whom resist stedfast in the faith, knowing that the same afflictions are accomplished in your brethren that are in the world.”*

Reliable Resources: Union Gospel Press Expositor and Illuminator; Precepts for Living (UMI); Word-Search 10 Electronic Library System; MacArthur Study Bible; Spiritual Warfare by Dr. David Jeremiah

### Introduction

Beloved, the Apostle Paul closes the letter to the Church at Ephesus with words of important instruction. The life in Christ on earth is not a picnic, but a daily battle zone! The obedient steward will not become a casualty of the enemy, but a victor in Christ Jesus the Lord. Now let us examine his script for success, but let us first share a poem by Alfred Hough that verifies a fitting description of our adversary the Devil! “Men don’t believe in the Devil now as their fathers used to do; They’ve forced the door of the broadest creed to

let His Majesty through. There isn’t a print of his cloven foot, or a fiery dart of his bow; To be found in earth or air today for the world has voted it so! But who is mixing the fatal draft that palsies heart and brain? And loads the earth each passing year with ten hundred thousand slain! Who blights the bloom of the land today with the fiery breath of Hell...If the Devil isn’t and never was, Will somebody rise and tell!”

### Anticipated Power Points: As a Good Steward of Jesus Christ...

- **Be Encouraged and Remain on Point.** Ephesians 6:10-12
- **Be Equipped and Readily Prepared.** Ephesians 6:13-17
- **Be Energized and Rely on Prayer.** Ephesians 6:18

## LESSON EXPOSITION

### I. Be Encouraged and Remain on Point. Ephesians 6:10-12

#### A. **Be strong.** vs. 10

Why? Because the believer is engaged in spiritual warfare that is manifested in our daily living. (Read I Peter 5:8). Satan desires to seek out and drown or overwhelm the believer in Christ. So we must **“be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might.”** Don’t depend on anyone or anything but The Lord exclusively!

#### B. **Be aware of Satan’s strategies.** vs. 11

The Christian Steward must be fully clothed in the armor of the Lord and so is the command of the Apostle. No part of the body or mind should be left exposed. Why? Because our enemy has **“wiles.”** That is, “a plan of war;” “A method of attack” or “battle strategies to deceive or undermine the believer.” Satan does not play by God’s rules! No part of our being should be left exposed to the devices of the Devil!

#### C. **Be discerning of demonic spirits.** vs. 12

##### 1. **They will raise strong opposition.** vs. 12a

These demonic spirits are seeking to **“wrestle”** or literally **pin** the Christian down so as to render us ineffective through hand-to-hand combat! Therefore, as we are fully armed, we must be ready to exert our spiritual and physical energy to fight manfully onward on a daily basis.

## 2. They are strategically organized. vs. 12b

According to Dr. David Jeremiah, there is a hierarchy or militaristic order of Satan's hosts. "Principalities in the Greek means first or head officer. Powers have to do with staff officers; rulers are divisional commanders; and spiritual hosts are the rank and file of fallen angels." So the Church is encouraged to remain on point in this daily spiritual warfare.

## II. Be Equipped and Readily Prepared. Ephesians 6:13-17

Be sure that you are properly equipped for battle at all times. vs. 13. Beloved, we are instructed in Scripture to approach this warfare in a complete suit of armor. The Christian is personally responsible to properly dress for war. "Put on the complete armor of God." (vs. 11.) Now the Apostle describes the pieces of armor and encourages us to put each piece on prayerfully.

### A. Belt of Truth. vs. 14

This truth is the awesome truth which is found only in Jesus Christ, who proclaims to be the source. And through Him we are able to stand our ground! There is no "sagging" when we wear this belt! (John 14:6)

### B. Breastplate of Righteousness. vs. 14

Paul, observing the armor of the soldier, saw that he was totally protected front and rear of his upper torso. The vital organs must be protected against the aggression of Satan and his host. But thank God our righteousness is in Jesus Christ. II Corinthians 5:21 tells us, "For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him."

### C. Shoes of the Gospel of Peace. vs. 15

Beloved, shoes were an advantage to a Roman soldier. One who fought barefoot was vulnerable. Also, the shoes give the warrior sure-footed traction to fight up or down hills. Paul says our shoes could not be more sure-footed than to be anchored in the Gospel of Jesus Christ. (Read Romans 1:16)

### D. Shield of Faith. vs. 16

When the believer has the shield of faith, he possesses portable protection to deflect the weapons and woes of Satan's army! Like the Roman soldier, the Christian's shields can link together for greater protection. Remember that shield is faith that believes God's Word without wavering! I John 5:4 says, "For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith." Also read Hebrews 11, which assures us that all victories of the saints of old were accomplished by faith!

### E. Helmet of Salvation. vs. 17

One should have his head protected in a war. The believer keeps his confidence by being assured of his position with Christ. Salvation should be a sure thing, not a wavering, doubtful disposition! Satan is doing a masterful job of creating doubtful Christians. A Barna poll was recently released that declared the following: "65% of casual Christians polled did not strongly or even passively agree that Satan is a real person. Among the similar group polled, 54% don't believe in a totally sinless Christ! My friends, we need to be fully suited and have the Helmet of Salvation. (Read Philippians 3:10).

### F. Sword of the Spirit. vs. 17

The believer must possess the armory of God which represents all His sayings or words and teachings. Why? Because when the believer is confronted by Satan's deceit, deceptions and lies, we must be able to pull out the right weapon to confront the adversary's representatives! Remember the example of our Lord in the wilderness (Matthew 4:1-11; Luke 4:1-13).

## III. Be Energized and Rely on Prayer. Ephesians 6:18-20

Prayer is our link of communication with our heavenly headquarters! (Read Daniel 6:10; Philippians 4:6; I Thessalonians 5:17). According to Dr. David Jeremiah, we should pray as follows:

"A. Pray on all occasions (meetings, groups, worship, privately, etc.).

B. Pray in all places (closet, family table, Bible classes, etc.).

C. Pray in all conditions (positive or negative; sickness or health, etc.)!

D. Pray for all things (personal, food, needs, desires, etc.)!"

Paul closes by requesting the prayers of the Saints, because we are all laborers together with God! I Corinthians 3:9

## CLOSING

Remember, we are not on a picnic, but as believers we are at **WAR!** II Corinthians 10:4, "For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds." We are good stewards of Christ and in everything we represent Him! Proverbs 3:6 tells us, "In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths."

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TV Telecast: WHNO TV-Channel 20, Sunday, 6:30 a.m.

Looking Ahead: March 1, 2015 John 1:29-34



**You are invited to attend Noon Bible Study every Wednesday as Pastor Davis teaches the lesson at Bibleway.**